



Medical Cannabis Advisory Council

As the Office of Cannabis Management (Office) continues the work to expand the Medical Cannabis Program, it is critical that certifying practitioners are engaged. Certifying practitioners are an integral part of the program and are best suited to educate their peers about cannabis and cannabis medicine. The Office is establishing the Medical Cannabis Advisory Council (MCAC) to utilize their expertise in developing clinical resources that educate health care professionals on how to treat patients with cannabinoid-based medicine.

MCAC Objectives

The Medical Cannabis Advisory Council will complement and enhance the Office, the Cannabis Control Board (CCB) and Cannabis Advisory Board (CAB), by supporting best practices in the medical cannabis practitioner community. The objectives of the MCAC will be to:

1. Assist with the development of resources for practitioners, including clinical guidance documents that evaluate the current scientific literature, and make data-driven recommendations for medical cannabis treatment protocols.
2. Provide guidance to the Office by making recommendations to improve the Medical Cannabis Program for patients and practitioners.

To provide more specific guidance about the roles and responsibilities of the Council based on the objectives outlined above, MCAC members will be tasked with the following duties:

Objective 1: Assist with the development of resources for practitioners, including clinical, billing, and patient engagement protocols and guidance documents.

- **Conduct Literature Reviews:** Council members will review and analyze the latest scientific literature on medical cannabis to stay current with emerging evidence and best practices of cannabis and cannabinoid-based medicines for the prioritized clinical conditions.
- **Develop Clinical Guidance Recommendations:** Using their professional experience and scientific evidence, the Council will collaboratively develop guidance documents that provide evidence-based recommendations for medical cannabis treatment protocols for certain medical conditions. The Council will submit the documents to the Office for review.
- **Resource Provision:** The Council, in collaboration with the Office, will develop resources for practitioners regarding cannabis administration. These resources will include information on dosing guidelines, patient monitoring, cannabis evaluation criteria, cannabis treatment protocol development, and adverse event reporting.
- **Review and Update Documents:** The Council will periodically review and update the clinical guidance documents to reflect new research and developments in the field of medical cannabis. The Office will set a prescribed timetable to review and update documents.

Objective 2: Provide guidance to the Office by making recommendations to improve the Medical Cannabis Program for patients and practitioners.



- **Identify Areas for Improvement:** After a review of Medical Cannabis Program data, and with consideration of their own experience participating in the program, the Council will identify areas of the program that need improvement or refinement.
- **Develop Recommendations:** The Council will develop specific and actionable recommendations to enhance patient care, streamline administrative processes to reduce burden, and improve overall program efficacy.
- **Communication with the Office:** The Chair will regularly communicate the recommendations of the Council to the Office.

MCAC Selection Process

The application and selection process will target practitioners from a range of clinical specialties and encourage diversity among Council members in order to represent the demographics of the state. Up to **13** practitioners from across NYS will be selected to serve on the Council. All members must be dedicated to the advancement of medical cannabis and believe in its potential as a therapeutic tool and treatment option for clinical intervention, when medically appropriate.

Council Composition

The Office will recruit in a manner that ensures practitioner specialties align with clinical priority areas identified by the Office. The clinical priority areas this cohort of MCAC will focus on are:

1. Inflammatory Bowel Disorders including Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's disease
2. Women's Health including Endometriosis, Ovarian Cysts, and Pelvic and Breast disorders
3. Developmental and Behavioral Disorders such as ADHD and Autism
4. Mental Health Conditions (Anxiety, Depression, Mood disorders)

Given the identified clinical priority areas, the Office seeks members across the following clinical specialties and diverse backgrounds for the initial Council composition:

- **Clinical psychiatrists**
- **Midwives or physicians specializing in women's health**
- **Physicians specializing in gastrointestinal disorders**
- **Practitioners specializing in developmental and behavioral disorders**
- Physicians with greater than 2 years' experience certifying patients in the Medical Cannabis Program
- Practitioners new to certifying patients for the Medical Cannabis Program (18 months or less)
- Mid-level practitioners (nurse practitioner or physician assistant)
- Licensed pharmacists working at a NYS medical cannabis dispensary
- Participants who identify as female
- Participants from racially diverse backgrounds

Participation Conditions

To accomplish the above objectives, Council members must be agreeable to the following:



- Council members must forfeit their right to apply for any grants or licenses through the Office during the time of service, except for a cannabis research license.
- Council members will not receive a fee, stipend, reimbursement, or other payment for the work they do as part of the Council.
- Council members must be available to attend regular Council meetings.
- Council members will be required to meet with the Office for updates up to 4 times annually.
- Council members will serve a term of up to 2 years; however, they may re-apply for subsequent terms.

Application

If interested in serving as a member of the Council, please follow this [link](#) and submit all application materials by December 4, 2023.